REMARKS

Claims 1-31 were pending. Claims 23-31 are hereby cancelled. In the Office Action dated April 18, 2003, claims 7-22 were allowed and claims 1-6 were rejected. Claims 1 and 2 are cancelled. Claims 3, 5 and 6 are amended. Reconsideration of the remaining rejected claims 3-6 is requested in light of the arguments presented below.

Claim 3 is amended to be in independent form. Claim 3 includes features that were not recited in Claim 1 and were not addressed in the Office Action. Because the features of claim 3 have not been shown to be present in the prior art, claim 3 is submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 5 and 6 are amended to depend from claim 3. Claims 4, 5 and 6 are submitted to be allowable at least for depending from an allowable independent claim. Claims 4, 5 and 6 also recite additional features that were not addressed in the Office Action.

Accordingly, it is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance and an early indication of its allowance is solicited. However, if the Examiner is aware of any further matters that require attention, a telephone call to the undersigned patent agent at 415-318-1160 would be appreciated.

UNCONSIDERED PRIOR ART

An information disclosure statement (IDS) was filed in this case on July 22, 2002. The Examiner has not indicated that the submitted prior art has been considered. A copy of the IDS and the return receipt postcard are enclosed with this amendment. The references are not included but may be provided if this would be helpful. An indication that all submitted prior art references have been considered in this case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorney Docket No.: SNDK.257US0